

Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee - Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting (Virtual)
April 14, 2021 at 5:30 pm-6:30pm (Every Second Wednesday of Month)

Committee Members Present: Amanda Garland, Nate Ebert, Amy Galford, Conor Teal
City Staff Present: None.
Guests: None.

Agenda

1. Call to Order

Amanda called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

2. Introduction of Guests/Additions to the Agenda

No guests and no additions to the agenda.

3. Updates and Announcements

No other announcements from the committee.

4. Main Street Trees Update

Amanda asked about the business outreach:

Conor: No outreach plan yet for adopt-a-tree program for watering and maintenance outreach to businesses on Main Street. Waiting on further decisions from the committee on future planting plans and tree guard installations before moving forward with asking locals to take on some responsibilities. Walked the street to check on tree conditions and soil compaction plus root exposure warrants attention; a good sign was a lack of garbage in the plots.

Nate: Concerned about the level of care needed for watering and believes that the City staff has the main jurisdiction of the trees. Wondering if they will still contract out watering duties as he predicts a drought this summer and dedicated watering will be needed.

Amanda is very worried about recurring damage to new and older trees on Main Street due to plows hitting the tree trunks and removing topsoil, exposing root feeders. She shared photos of the damages to the committee. Asked the committee for recommendations: all in favor of mulching the spaces as soon as possible.

Amanda recommends a pause on new planting until tree guards are available. Shared an update that two guards were ordered but currently there is a delay in the shipment. No set arrival time yet, but will keep in touch with the Tree Warden on its delivery. Still questions on how to install the guards as they are meant to be attached to perimeter fencing. A workaround will be needed.

Action Item #1: Ask the Tree Warden to acquire mulch to be placed on Main Street tree plots to protect exposed roots.

Action Item #2: Committee will research successful alternative natural foliage streetscapes in other cities as well as protective measures for street trees.

5. Mission and Charge Work

Committee discussed alterations to the draft Mission statement to better represent the duties and capabilities of the committee. After concluding edits, Amanda made a motion to approve the Mission statement, Conor seconded, all in favor. The updated Mission statement will be included in the annual charges report sent to the Mayor and City staff. The website will be updated with the new statement.

Mission statement as approved:

“The Barre City Tree Stewardship Committee advises and assists the City Council, staff, and residents to protect, maintain and improve the urban forest.”

The committee also discussed the goals/strategies it will work on this year, compiling the goals into a report requested by Mayor Herring for all City committees. Amanda will forward the completed report to the Mayor.

6. Tree Nursery Updates

Amanda: Her students have surveyed the Nursery lot and have measured/staked out a square area for the future Nursery. Posts and fencing will be installed near end of April.

Amanda reported that the local Rotary Club donated 10 conifer tree seedlings to the Nursery and used at the Committee's discretion. Committee will plant them at the Nursery until a decision is made to donate them or locate a planting site.

Amanda reported that she will visit a successful tree nursery in Rutland this month and report back to the committee with observations/recommendations from the location.

7. Tree City USA

Postponed discussion to next meeting.

8. Next Steps and Action Items

Amy showcased her suggestions for updating the website, focusing on how information can be more accessible to the public and included photos of the committee's work. The committee is in favor of the updates and will review additional information to be included in the website.

Committee will confirm whether it's possible to meet at the Nursery site for the next Regular Meeting on May 12. If approved, driving directions will be in next agenda.

9. Adjourn

Committee adjourned at 6:45 pm.